

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
**INFORMATION REPORT**

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COUNTRY	USSR (Estonian SSR)	REPORT	
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1. The Industrial Enterprise of the Abja Rayon Consumers' Union (Promkombinat Abyaskogo raypotrebsoyuza in Russian and Abja Tarvitajate Kooperativi Rajoon-iliidu Toitluskombinati Kontor in Estonian) included a tailor shop, a lemonade plant, a printing office, a locksmith workshop, a sawmill and flour mill, a bakery, a carpenter shop, a sausage plant, and a shoemaker's shop. Each section had a manager, who received 50 to 150 rubles a month in addition to his regular wage. The administrative office and the tailor shop were located in a building on Järve Street, where they moved in the fall of 1952. A sign on the front of the building gave the official name of the promkombinat in Russian and Estonian.
2. The procedure for a customer who wanted work done by one of the promkombinat shops was as follows: The customer submitted a request to the promkombinat office; after approval by the director, the request was forwarded to the appropriate workshop; the manager of the workshop provided the director with an estimate of labor and materials required to do the job; upon approval of the estimate, the workshop could begin to fill the order. The prices charged by the promkombinat were at least twice (sic) as high as the cost. For instance, in the locksmith shop, the price was the sum of the worker's wage plus 20 percent and the cost of materials plus 20 percent. Prices charged the promkombinat subsidiaries, however, were kept as low as possible by calculating the workers' norms on an arbitrary minimum basis without reference to the official norms. A worker was told that the norm for a certain job would be so many hours no matter how long it actually took to complete the work. Also, deliberate miscalculations were made in an attempt to save money.

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3. The financial management of the promkombinat was very inefficient. In one case, when the sausage plant needed new knives for the meat grinder, the director turned down the locksmith shop's offer to make the knives for 32 rubles on the ground that the price was too high; later, the manager of the sausage plant, with the consent of the director, ordered new knives from Vohma, a neighboring town, at a cost of 200 rubles, plus six rubles charged by the locksmith shop for sharpening them.
4. Another example of incompetence was the fact that prices of tools and machinery in the inventory ledgers remained the same after the currency reform of 1948. Managers of the promkombinat subsidiaries had to pay for lost tools or machinery on the basis of prices listed in the inventory ledgers, and amortization of tools and machinery was calculated on the same basis. Tools had to be repaired by promkombinat workers on their own time, since the officials had failed to allow time for this in the production plan. The same thing applied to the cleaning of workshop premises. Because of a general shortage of electricity in Abja, all workshops of the promkombinat were ordered not to run motors between 0700 and 1000 hours and probably between 1800 and 2000 hours. The current was often cut off at other times as well.

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8. The following is the legend to  layout sketch of the promkombinat administrative office and tailor shop. The numbers refer to pinpoints on the sketch.

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- a. Director's office.
- b. Office.
- c. Passageway.
- d. Storeroom for the tailors.
- e. Tailor shop.
- f. Customers' reception room (the north and west walls of this room were only two meters high).
- g. Fitting room with a wall mirror.
- h. Room probably used by one of the tailors as living quarters.
- i. Empty room.

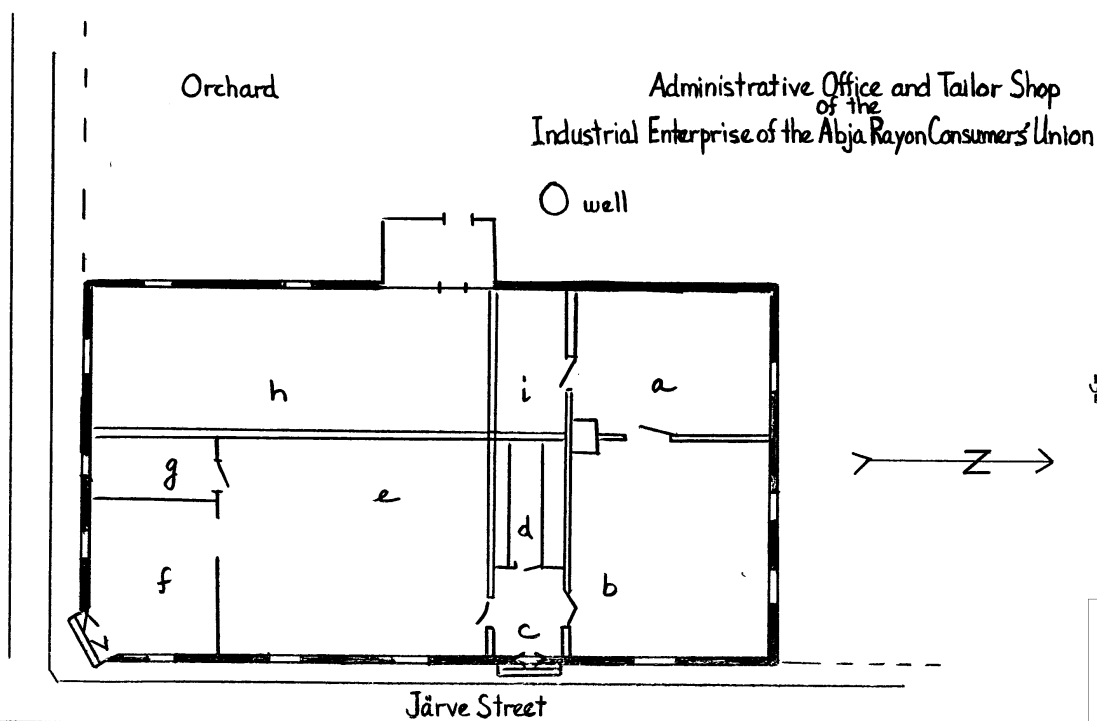
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